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Appomattox Ex-Slave Gives Her Version Of The Surrender

(Editor's Note: Sunday will mark the 107th anniversary of the end of the War Between the States at Appomattox. The following story of the Surrender was written

By Mrs. Rachel F. Lawson

Appomattox, April 8 --Martha Mildred Stevens Craig, better known as "Aunt Millie" and very spry for her 89 years, delights in telling her story of the surrender which took place here April 9, 1865, just 77 years ago Thursday.

Aunt Millie, quaint, timid, and full of interest in her white and negro friends, was active for her age until last spring when she was struck by a bolt of lightening while in bed. She now walks with the aid of a cane, keeps house for her only son,"Uncle Bob' Craig, who has served as janitor at Appomattox High School for several generations.

Aunt Millie was 13 at the time of the surrender and was the nurse maid of Charlie Sackett Peers, six month old son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Peers. Mr. Peers was at that time clerk of the Court of Appomattox and was living near the scene of the surrender.

"I was walking de floor, patting my baby to sleep, when those yankee soldiers came bustin' in Marse George's house. The soldiers hollered for everybody to leave de house 'cause the worst battle ever fought was starting right den. Marse George fetched Miss Jennie by de hand and rushed her off to the hay loft in the stable.

"My Missus was powerful excitable and nervous and Marse George knew he had to get her away from all de soldiers. Marse George must have thought I was going to follow wid de little baby, but instead I darted in another room and kept behind Miss Jennie's Linen chest. I kept patting my little white baby all the time."

"The first chance I had, I peeped out de window and saw ever so many soldiers pushing a large cannon right in front of the steps to the house. The generals were givin' orders and de soldiers were linin' up and I never saw as many guns before in all my life. I commenced to think hard.

GOT HER DRESS

"Marse George and Missus Jennie had left their little lamb in my care and I just had to keep him safe. I thought about the pretty plaid dress Missus Jennie had made for me to go to the church meetin' in. I ran back to another room and slipped the dress from the wardrobe and tied it 'round my waist. While all de soldiers were busy, charging and carryin' on, I tucked dat baby's head under my arm, ran down the hill faster than I had ever run before or ever have since. I was darting bullets, first to de right and den to de left. I saw white ladies hollering and running in all directions. I heard the generals holler--'Charge bayonets, forward march, fight.'

FOUND A GULLY

"I found a gully, a right deep one too, and I laid my scared baby flat on de ground, I hovered over him and reached up and pulled brush over us. I kept patting dat baby. I knew dem soldiers would find us if the baby cried."

"Finally, after what seemed hours to me, a kind soldier, I'll never forget de gentleman, who carried a white flag and was riding a horse, jumped the ditch and halted. He said, 'little girl, it's all over now. Take de baby home. Lee has surrendered to Grant'.

"I didn't know whether to believe the man or not, so I eased up and peeped out and saw some white ladies walking around so I knew it was safe for me to take the chile out. I knew Marse George won't worrin' about the baby though, 'cause he knew I would risk my life for that chile."

Aunt Millie laughed at this point and said, "Mrs. Lawson, let me tell you something funny. There was a white gal, Miss Puss Nowlin, walking along near me and she was plenty hot with those Yankees. One of the walking officers spoke to her and told her that Lee had surrendered. Miss Puss flared up and said, 'You're a liar, you Yankee devil,' and de officer replied, 'you're another, you damn rebel.'

"When I reached the house the band was playin, horses runnin' and soldiers singin'. I ran in the house, still pattin' the baby smoked a ham out of de pantry and hid it up the chimney. I was looking after Marse George's interest, and I knew those soldiers were hungry and would grab dat ham if they spied it."

'One Yankee soldier came in drinking and walked up and slapped the baby, drawing the blood out of his little fat cheeks. I begged him to please not kill us. He cussed, ripped de shades and tore the curtains up. I slipped to de front door and told General Chamberlain, who had been campin' in Marse George's yard for several days. The general told some soldiers to drag the drunk out of de house. They handled him so rough, I begged 'em not to kill him, although I was powerful mad 'cause he had slapped my white chile. I bathed the blood from his little cheeks 'cause I knew Missus Jennie would faint if she saw blood on her baby chile.'

PUT THEM TO BED

"I then ran to the stable loft and called Marse George, He led Missus Jennie in de house and we put her to bed and laid her baby beside her."

"'Bout dat time the soldiers rushed in and wanting some vitals. Marse George told me to feed 'em. They ate faster than I could cook. One soldier gave me a green back dollar, and I passed it on to Marse George. He said it was the first one he had ever owned."

"I was ordered to go to the well and get fresh water. When I got there I found several soldiers standin' around a horse. They asked me if I wanted the horse and I told them I didn't have no use for a horse. I was so scared I couldn's hardly draw de water. One soldier spoke up and said if I would accept de horse, he would give me a bridle too. He said de horse was a little blind from gun powder smoke but he would get all right. I told them I would take de horse and they said I would have to dance first. They sang and clapped their hands, and I danced, 'cause I was scared not to. I walked back to Marse George's house with a bucket of water in one hand and leading that ole blind horse with the other hand. I told Marse George what de soldiers had done and he took the horse and put it in the stable. We fed that horse and used him for years afterwards hitched to de buggy."

"I happened to think about the cow and pigs and I ran to the barn yard. Those soldiers had killed our only cow and skinned her. They had taken my little baby's white pet pig and cut its feet off. I just sat down and cried right in the barn yard."

Aunt Millie closed her story of the last battle by saying, "Nobody slept that night. There was too much going on -- singing, hollering, drinking and music galore. I was too skeered to sleep.'

The Pastor Speaks

"Prepare to Meet thy God"
Amos 4:12

It is amazing that the scriptures never instruct us to prepare for death--either in the Old or the New Testament.

It always admonishes us to prepare to meet God. The implication is clear. Death is of only incidental interest if one is ready for what lies beyond the grave. It is of dire consequence only to the lost. For then it becomes the cold and icey door of eternal doom. To believers whose entrance into the prepared mansion is assured through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:2), grim spectacle at the end of the road. For the process of dying is not pleasant, even though the real sting of death has been removed by our Saviour (I Corin. 15:55-57). To those who have exclaimed in days gone by, --Father I feel the damp upon my brow and chill of death is falling on us now. Soon from earth's fleeting shadows I must part, my Father take my hand thou hast my heart!"

There once was a young woman who feared that step between earth and heaven even though she was a Christian. On being told by her doctor that her life would soon end, she could not find release from these doubts and misgivings. Finally the preacher came and reminded her of a recent birth in her immediately family. "Do you remember how you made ready the little bassinet and crocheted the pretty booties and had all in readiness for the coming of that baby?" said the preacher. "Yes," replied the troubled one. "There was not a thing that wasn't prepared to make that little darling comfortable the day it arrived in this world". Then said the preacher pointedly, "And do you think God is less kind to you? He too has made abundent preparation to receive you into the mansions above and make you feel at home there, when live here has ended." The woman was greatly comforted and spent her final days in happy anticipation for glory. Have you prepared to meet God? "Living without God means dying without hope!"

"Say are you ready?
Oh are you ready?
If the death angel should call;
Say are you ready?
Oh are you ready?
Mercy stands waiting for all!"

Earnie W. Lucas, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church
Appomattox, Va. 24522

DIAL
GOOD NEWS
352-7900

$314,922 Expended By VA In Appomattox

The Veterans Administration today announced that expenditures for Appomattox County for fiscal 1971 total $314,922, an increase of $39,500 over the previous year's total of $275,422.

The Director of the Roanoke VA Regional Office said that the bulk of the money, $229,788 was for disability compensation and pension payments.

Other VA expenditures for fiscal 1971 were $52,985 for GI Bill and other VA education programs and $32,149 for insurance and indemnities.

Area Labor Needs Will Be Surveyed

A Manpower and Training Needs Survey was scheduled by the Virginia Employment Commission today for metropolitan Lynchburg and neighboring communities to determine present and future requirements of employers of the area.

In announcing the survey the VEC said April 3 ha s been set as the starting date for mailing questionnaires. Named as co-sponsors are the chambers of commerce of Lynchburg, Altavista, Amherst and Brookford; Central Virginia Industries; Lynchburg Restail Merchants Association; City of Lynchburg; Lynchburg Public Schools, the Central Virginia Community College, and the Central Virginia Planning District Commission.

Questionnaires are to be mailed to a representative group of business firms. The size of the firms will vary according to the number of persons employed in the industry, and the number of firms needed, in order to obtain a representative sample.

Three types of questionnaires will be used: (1) occupations most common to manufacturing industries; (2) occupations most common to non-manufacturing industries (except trade), and (3) the most prevalent occupations in trade establishments.

In announcing these figures VA invited veterans to contact the VA Regional Office at 211 West Campbell Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia, for information on any program, including the GI Bill.

Employers will be asked to provide such information as present employment, expected employment two and six years hence, female employment, the number of employees under and over 45 years of age, the estimated total employement required in each occupation intwo and six years, the number of workers expected to complete in-plant training in two and six years, and those occupations most difficult to fill.

The VEC also said the survey will serve several important purposes, including service as a base for decisions of prospective employers to locate here, the planning of vocational training, effective vocational counseling for youths and other changing occupations, and development of a realistic estimate of additional workers needed by local firms in the next two and six years.

A Missouri state trooper stopped a nine-year-old driver of a minibike on U. S. 70. His passenger was his eight-year-old brother. They had traveled 30 miles before apprehension.

CLASSIFIED ADS GET THE JOB DONE

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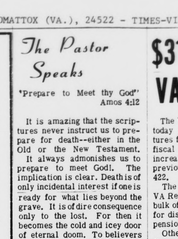

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FATHER DARKLEAF
Cont'd from Page 1

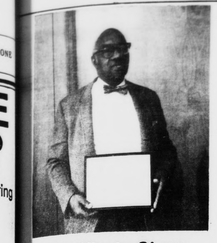
46 million visitors to Virginia in 1971 and they spent approximately a billion dollars. The profit percentage is high, both ways. The visitor gets matchless scenery and hospitality and history, and the homefolk get happy contact with new friends and the music of cash registers. Many Virginia localities are going all out for this business. Virginia Beach, for example, had 6,400 visitor rooms available last year but is spending eight million dollars for more this year. The Atlantic Coast is alive to its potential. Appomattox is the geographical center of Historic Virginia and has unlimited possibilities.

GOOD NEWS
352-7900
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

$50.00 REWARD

For information or where-abouts - FEMALE WALKER FOX HOUND, Brown or Tan Head, white around neck, black on back, four white legs and feet and white tip on end of tail. This dog might be hard to catch, if you see her call - Vernell Mitchell - 352-3102 or write Box 274, Appomattox Any information given on the where abouts of this dog will be held confidential.

Certificate Given



...the annual meeting of the Central Virginia Tuberculosis ...Respiratory Disease Association held Monday evening ...Farmville, the Rev. R. Q. Lawing was presented a certif... in appreciation for generous service to the Associa... Last year nearly $200 was gathered from Rev. Lawing's ...ches and others in the county for the annual Christmas ...drive. The certificate is signed by Emma G. Anthony, ...ive director and Dr. Anthony J. Munoz, president of ...association. Among those in attendance for the annual ...ting was Dr. A. A. Fratrick, of Appomattox.

...cial Wheels' ...ven $50.00

...sorority and fraternity ...ers of Appomattox county ...ggested funds to make a ...e of $50.00 to the Appo... County 'Special Wheels'

...ds from 'Special Wheels' ...transport children to ...Education classes in ...ney each school day.

...ributors include Mrs. ...James and Mrs. Grace ...Alpha Kappa Alpha. Al... Hester Stevens, Mrs. ... Foster and Mrs. Pri... Johnson, Delta Sigma ...Mr. Gilbert James, Om... Phi; Rev. R. Q. Lawing ...Leon Lawing, Phi Beta

...letter to the 'Special ...committee, Mrs. Eli... Jordan wrote, "We are ...interested in and aware ...needs in Appomattox and ...help in whatever way we ...ages our gesture will

THREE ACHS STUDENTS TO ATTEND ASSEMBLY

Cont'd from Page 1

in channel 23's coverage area, Mrs. Ida J. Hill, Director of Instruction at WCVE, said "A large number of Superintendents have expressed interest in this coverage, and we accept the challenge. This will be the first large number of Superintendents have expressed interest in this coverage, and we accept the challenge. This will be the first time a production of this type has been attempted by our staff."

Among the events to be covered during the April 9 broadcast are the swearing in of the Youth Officers and Legislators; the inaugural Address by Youth Governor, Preston Miller Givens, Jr., Hot Springs; a rebroadcast of the Thursday, motivate others to make donations. At any rate we hope they will."

COUNTY LINE

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Tucker spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Jennings in Lynchburg. They helped Mr. and Mrs. Jennings move in their new home.

Little Mike Mann and Dawn Kerr are on the sick list.

Mr. Loyd Nash and Miss Patsy Howard spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Elliott Nash and Dawn Kerr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Layne and Missy spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Howard, Dean and Stacy and Mrs. Nelson Mann, Tony and Mike were dinner guests of Mrs. Elliott Nash and Dawn Thursday.

Mrs. Nelson Mann, Tony and Mike and Mrs. Elliott Nash and Dawn spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Jennings of Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Nash and children of Lynchburg were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Nash and Dawn. Those visiting in the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann Keith, Tony and Mike, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Howard, Dean and Stacy, Loyd Nash and Miss Patsy Howard and Mr. Winfred Nash.

Mrs. Dennis Arnold visited Mrs. Elliott Nash Friday.

Mrs. Nelson Mann, Mrs. Henry Mann and Mrs. Richard Jones attended the shower for Mrs. Richard Jones and Miss Kathy Goin Saturday night at the Sherwille Community Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gobble and Mr. Herbert Guill and Mr. and Mrs. Olif Waddell and Mr. Loyd Nash of Concord visited Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash and family Sunday.

April 6 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Ceremony and Program; committee meetings; and sessions from the floor of the House and Senate.

This continuous programming will be broadcast to all of the junior and senior high schools in the Central Virginia area. This will be the first time that WCVE/WCVW has provided a live current events program of this nature for its Central Virginia school districts.

The Revival begins at Central Baptist Church Sunday night, April 9 and continues through the 14th. Rev. Omah Burnett will be the guest speaker. Rev. Winiff-ed Elder is pastor. Every one is welcomed.

HOLLYWOOD

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield Monday afternoon were Mrs. Kate Misner, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trent and Newlray, of Rustburg.

Rev. W. H. Elder brought us a fine Easter message Sunday morning. A group of young people from Rocks Church rendered special Easter music which was enjoyed very much.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson and Misses Susan and Jewel Irby went to South Boston Sunday afternoon to see Mrs. Watson's brother, Mr. Robert Gurthrie, who is very ill in the Community Hospital there. We hope he will soon be better. They also visiting Mr. and Mrs. Sam Powell, of Halifax, and Mr. Bruce Dismuke, of Scottsburg.

Mrs. W. T. Covington, Mrs. M. L. Covington and Mrs. Charlie Bagby were dinner guests Sunday of the W. H. Wingfields.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Webb and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Webb, of Richmond, visited Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Webb and Mr. Walker Webb Sunday.

Visiting Mrs. Charlie Bagby during the week end were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa, of Covington, Scott and Debbie Woodall and Dallas Mangus, of Lynchburg, Clem and Ronnie Woodall, of Lynchburg, also.

We are very sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. Russell Conner, who is a patient in Virginia Baptist Hospital. We wish for her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Shirley Franklin, Mrs. Ruth Watson, Mrs. Betty Webb and Mrs. Mary Bagby, from Hollywood, attended the Bible School Clinic Thursday night at Liberty Baptist Church.

We hope Miss Ora Gilbert at Virginia Baptist and Mr. Harry Johnson at the Medical Center, are improving.

We are very sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. D. H. Easley of Quantico, Va. and hope she may soon be well. Mrs. Easley is the daughter of Mrs. Mae Slough.

'Slop' Day

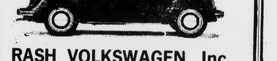
"Anything goes" in the way of clothing on "Senior Slop Day" and Thursday afternoon, March 30 brought out the best (worst?) in color combinations for the seniors of Appomattox County High School. It was "Male Chauvinist Day", too with the males "hiring" the senior girls, presumably to haul school books around, perhaps carry a lunch tray, etc. Money from this goes to the senior class and any mixed-up feelings about "Women's Lib" will no doubt disappear at a sumptuous senior banquet. Sample of bright smiles and outfits (a bove, from left): Nancy Ranson, Dickie Lawson, Dennis Wilkerson and Sherry Covington.

PAPER EDITOR TOURS T-VA

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith, of Williamstown, Massachusetts, were visitors in Appomattox this week. Mr. Smith is editor of the "Williamstown News" and toured the plant and facilities of the Times-Virginian as part of their visit here. They are friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Noble and family, who moved here from Williamstown.

The Williamstown paper, an offset publication, was established in 1959. True to the tradition of weekly papers, both Mr. and Mrs. Smith help with many phases of the operation. They have five children, who were also here for the visit.

WANT ADS



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'TOGA CENTER' WILL PROVIDE RECREATION

Cont'd from Page 1

ham County and near the Appomattox county line,

Genevieve Agee, of Buckingham, has reported that the newly formed organization is the 'Toga Community Center", a non-profit corporation, supported by individual membership.

The organization has purchased a tract of land which encompasses 17 acres in the vacinity of the Slate River Bridge on Route 24, on the fire trail road.

Ground has been broken, land cleared and grading operations begun.

First phase of the project includes an athletic field with two ball diamonds including one for little league and a football field by early spring to be highlighted by games and some recreational pursuits,

Future plans include a club house for meetings and recreational functions, such as suppers, dances, etc. Also a picnic area, tennis court, a basketball court, rifle and archery range.

Persons interested in helping the project are invited to contact the officers: Bobbie Cowin, president; Richard Seay, vice president; William Agee, treasurer, and chairman of the board; George Hoag, secretary; Claude Anderson, attorney; Robert Seay, Dyches Seay, Cullen Rossen and Pete Gowin, all directors.

WEATHER REPORT

PRECIPITATION:

Last Week	.28
Month of March	2.45
Normal for Month of March	3.48
This Month	.28
This Year	10.45
Normal for this Year	9.34

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Bone or Porterhouse Steaks $1.49 lb.
Sirloin Steaks USDA $1.39 lb.
USDA Cube Steaks $1.59 lb.
Bacon CYPRESS SLICED BACON 55¢ lb.
FRANKS GWALTNEY 12 OZ. PKG. 57¢
Sliced Pork Loin lb. 79¢
White Salt Pork 3 lbs. $1.00
COUNTRY STYLE Spare Ribs lb. 69¢
BUCKINGHAM Cornish Hens EACH 89¢
Margarine MRS. FILBERTS - GOLDEN QUARTERS 3 LBS. 89¢
Paper Towels MARCAL 4 ROLLS $1.00
CRISCO Shortening 3 LB. CAN 99¢
Applesauce 16 OZ. CAN 10¢
Biscuits RICHFOOD 15 COUNT 10¢
BETSY ROSS CHICKEN Dinner Rolls 3 FOR $1
PLEASING FRESH PRODUCE
Cabbage lb. 10¢
POTATOES 20 LB. BAG 89¢
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